



THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • NOVEMBER 27, 2022 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION



P T Usha to file nomination for IOA president

Legendary athlete P T Usha on Saturday announced that she will contest for the post of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president when the sports body holds its election on December 10. The deadline to file nomination papers ends on Sunday | P14

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Guj BJP to form cell to take on radicalisation

Manifesto promises Uniform Civil Code as well

DILIP SINGH KSHATRIYA @ Ahmedabad

USUAL suspects like the Uniform Civil Code were part of the Gujarat poll manifesto the BJP released on Saturday, but the main talking point was the setting up of an anti-radicalisation cell, as the promise was made for the first time.

The party's Sankalp Patra was released by BJP national president J P Nadda, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel and state party president CR Patil in Gandhinagar. "We will create an anti-radicalisation cell to identify and eliminate potential threats, and sleeper cells of the terrorist organisations and anti-India forces," Nadda said.

He also announced that they would introduce the Gujarat Recovery of Damages of Public and Private Properties Act to "recover damages to public and private properties by anti-social elements during riots, violent protests and unrest."

Ahead of the Assembly elections, the Gujarat cabinet on October 29 announced the setting up of a committee to study the modalities of implementing the Uniform Civil Code. "We will ensure complete implementation



J P Nadda releasing the BJP manifesto for Gujarat polls on Saturday | en

of the Gujarat Uniform Civil Code Committee's recommendation," Nadda added. All these were part of the party's hard Hindutva agenda.

To attract first-time voters and youth, the BJP promised loads of jobs. "We will provide 20 lakh employment opportunities to the youth of Gujarat in the next 5 years." It includes the promise of 1 lakh government jobs to women in five years.

Taking a leaf out of AAP's book, the BJP promised free education to all female students from kindergarten to post-graduation besides free two-wheelers to the meritorious college-going female students. Free bus travel to senior women citizens was part of its basket of promises.

Scrap old vehicles, get rebate on new

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @ Bengaluru

THE Karnataka government is set to come out with a vehicle scrappage policy in the next 15 days. This comes a day after Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari announced that all government vehicles which have completed 15 years should be scrapped.

The state's move will be as per the policy guidelines sent by the Centre to all states. In Karnataka, a proposal is being considered to give rebate to owners on purchase of new vehicle to



those who scrap old ones.

As per data released by the Karnataka Transport Department last year, out of 2.8 crore vehicles on road in Karnataka, over 79 lakh vehicles are more than 15 years old. Both Union and state governments are making an effort to scrap vehicles which do not have Fitness Certificates (FCs). Many of

such vehicles are still plying on the state's roads posing threat to environment, besides being prone to accidents.

A senior official said there are vehicles falling under various categories like commercial, private and government. Under each category, depending on their age and fitness, the vehicles will be scrapped. "We are thinking of offering incentives to those who surrender their vehicles voluntarily by giving them a certificate through which they can avail subsidy or rebate in the next new vehicle purchase," the official said. P5



SELFIE

4 GIRLS FALL INTO DAM NEAR BELAGAVI, DROWN

A group of five students slipped and fell when they were taking a selfie while standing on the edge of the Kitwad reservoir. One of them was saved by people present at the spot | P5

Lewy on target

In another drama-filled day in Qatar, Australia and Poland kept their dreams alive but Saudi Arabia had a mild setback.

FIRST WC WIN IN 12 YEARS

Australia edged Tunisia by a solitary goal to keep alive their chances of advancing to the knockout stages. It was their first World Cup in 12 years

LEWY OPENS ACCOUNT

Pole Robert Lewandowski finally opened his World Cup account in a less than comfortable 2-0 win over Saudi Arabia. Both sides can still qualify for the next phase.

TODAY'S MATCHES

Japan vs Costa Rica 3.30 pm
Belgium vs Morocco 6.30 pm
Croatia vs Canada 9.30 pm
Germany vs Spain 12.30 am (Mon)

Football's fiery fandom in Kerala

S NEERAJ KRISHNA @ Kochi

KERALA'S quaint tea shops play host to the most intense football discussions; pre- and post-match analyses, history, anecdotes, geopolitics, debates, even bets... they are all served fresh with the trademark red-tinged hot cuppa.

The state's passion for the game runs deep. Here, fans are few, most are fanatics. And, this craze has made Kerala a global talking point, with international media and commentators unable to contain their amusement at the Malayali's celebration of the Qatar World Cup. In fact, the buzz started way before the tournament kicked off.

In September, the official FIFA World Cup handle tweeted a documentary named 'Maitanam' — The story of football



A youth kicking off a football in Thiruvananthapuram | VINCENT PULICKAL

in Kerala', with the succinct caption "Football is love. Football is life. Football is everything in the heart of Kerala."

Keralites proved that right counting down to the greatest sporting event. Giant cut-outs of Messi, Neymar and Ronaldo emerged, one after the other, along the Pullavoor river in

Kozhikode district. Yet again, FIFA tweeted it, and the picture went viral globally. Since then, the cut-out war between fan clubs has been raging across the state. Tensions have flared as the contest for prime spots for cut-outs boiled over multiple times. CONTINUED ON P14

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